

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of warning individuals that a surface of a stove containing two or more heating elements may be hot, the stove having a source of electric power, comprising:

- (a) installing a controller on a top surface of the stove,
- (b) installing, for each heating element on the surface, a heat sensor beneath the surface and adjacent the heating element for ascertaining and communicating the temperature of the heating element to the controller,
- (c) installing, for each heating element on the surface, a plurality of light emitting diodes adjacent the heating element, the plurality of light emitting diodes in electric communication with the source of electric power so that the plurality of light emitting diodes can be illuminated and configured to represent a predetermined heat warning symbol, said symbol alone communicating that the surface is dangerously hot, the symbol readily visible only when illuminated to an observer who can also readily see the surface,

the controller capable of receiving temperature information from the heat sensors and controlling the light emitting diodes so that whenever a specified surface temperature of a particular heating element is reached, the symbol is illuminated and remains illuminated as long as the specified surface temperature of that heating element is maintained,

the heat warning symbols positioned so that an observer approaching a heating element of the stove when said heating element is dangerously hot can readily see and understand the heat

warning symbol of that heating element.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein installing the plurality of light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol positioned so that an observer approaching a heating element can see the symbol involves installing the plurality of light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol positioned so that an observer approaching a heating element of the stove from any direction when said heating element is dangerously hot can readily see and understand the heat warning symbol of that heating element.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein installing the plurality of light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol involves installing the plurality of light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol that includes the letters "HOT" as a portion of the symbol

4. The method of claim 1, wherein installing the plurality of light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol involves installing the plurality of light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol that comprises an arrangement of LED's that forms a perimeter around the heating element.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein installing the plurality of light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol involves installing the plurality of light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol that comprises an arrangement of LED's

that forms a perimeter around the heating element and the perimeter is interrupted by the letters "HOT".

6. The method of claim 1, wherein installing the plurality of light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol includes installing the plurality of light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol that includes an arrangement of LED's that partially encircles the heating element and that is positioned between the heating element and an observer approaching the heating element

7. The method of claim 6, wherein installing the plurality of light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol includes installing the plurality of light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol that includes an arrangement of LED's that partially encircles the heating element and that is positioned between the heating element and an observer approaching the heating element and wherein the symbol includes the letters "HOT"

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the method also includes installing a switch for turning on or off the ability of the plurality of light emitting diodes to receive electric power from the source of electric power.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the method also includes the step of installing an indicator device that notifies the user whether the plurality of light emitting diodes no longer functions to illuminate and remain illuminated as long as the specified surface temperature of that

heating element is maintained.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein installing a controller involves installing a controller that can control a degree of brightness of the plurality of light emitting diodes based on a setting set by a user.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein installing a controller involves installing a controller that can control a sound producing component that produces a sound alarm whenever the plurality of light emitting diodes is turned on.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of light emitting diodes can alternate in illumination to create a blinking effect that heightens the warning power of the heat warning symbol.

13. A method of warning individuals that a surface of a stove containing two or more heating elements may be hot, the stove having a source of electric power, comprising:

(a) installing a controller on a top surface of the stove,

(b) installing, for each heating element on the surface, a heat sensor beneath the surface and adjacent the heating element for ascertaining and communicating the temperature of the heating element to the controller,

(c) installing, for each heating element on the surface, a plurality of light emitting diodes adjacent the heating element, the plurality of light emitting diodes in electric communication with

the source of electric power so that the plurality of light emitting diodes can be illuminated and configured to represent a predetermined heat warning symbol, said symbol alone communicating that the surface is dangerously hot, the symbol readily visible only when illuminated to an observer who can also readily see the surface,

the controller capable of receiving temperature information from the heat sensors and controlling the light emitting diodes so that whenever a specified surface temperature of an area surrounding a particular heating element is reached, the symbol is illuminated and remains illuminated as long as the specified surface temperature of that heating element is maintained,

the heat warning symbols positioned so that an observer approaching a heating element of the stove when said heating element is dangerously hot can readily see and understand the heat warning symbol of that heating element.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein installing the plurality of light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol positioned so that an observer approaching a heating element can see the symbol involves installing the plurality of light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol positioned so that an observer approaching a heating element of the stove from any direction when said heating element is dangerously hot can readily see and understand the heat warning symbol of that heating element.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein installing the plurality of light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol involves installing the plurality of light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol that includes the letters "HOT" as a portion

of the symbol

16. The method of claim 13, wherein installing the plurality of light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol involves installing the plurality of light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol that comprises an arrangement of LED's that forms a perimeter around the heating element.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein installing the plurality of light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol involves installing the plurality of light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol that comprises an arrangement of LED's that forms a perimeter around the heating element and the perimeter is interrupted by the letters "HOT".

18. The method of claim 13, wherein installing the plurality of light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol includes installing the plurality of light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol that includes an arrangement of LED's that partially encircles the heating element and that is positioned between the heating element and an observer approaching the heating element

19. The method of claim 18, wherein installing the plurality of light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol includes installing the plurality of light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol that includes an arrangement of LED's that

partially encircles the heating element and that is positioned between the heating element and an observer approaching the heating element and wherein the symbol includes the letters "HOT"

20. The method of claim 13, wherein the method also includes installing a switch for turning on or off the ability of the plurality of light emitting diodes to receive electric power from the source of electric power.

21. The method of claim 13, wherein the method also includes the step of installing an indicator device that notifies the user whether the plurality of light emitting diodes no longer functions to illuminate and remain illuminated as long as the specified surface temperature of that heating element is maintained.

22. The method of claim 13, wherein installing a controller involves installing a controller that can control a degree of brightness of the plurality of light emitting diodes based on a setting set by a user.

23. The method of claim 13, wherein installing a controller involves installing a controller that can control a sound producing component that produces a sound alarm whenever the plurality of light emitting diodes is turned on.

24. The method of claim 13, wherein the plurality of light emitting diodes can alternate in illumination to create a blinking effect that heightens the warning power of the heat warning

symbol.

25. A method of warning individuals that a surface of a stove containing two or more heating elements may be hot, the stove having a source of electric power, comprising:

(a) installing a controller on a top surface of the stove,

(b) installing, for each heating element on the surface, a heat sensor beneath the surface and adjacent the heating element for ascertaining and communicating the temperature of the heating element to the controller,

(c) installing, for each heating element on the surface, one or more organic light emitting diodes adjacent the heating element, the one or more organic light emitting diodes in electric communication with the source of electric power so that the one or more organic light emitting diodes can be illuminated and configured to represent a predetermined heat warning symbol, said symbol alone communicating that the surface is dangerously hot, the symbol readily visible only when illuminated to an observer who can also readily see the surface,

the controller capable of receiving temperature information from the heat sensors and controlling the one or more light emitting diodes so that whenever a specified surface temperature of a particular heating element is reached, the symbol is illuminated and remains illuminated as long as the specified surface temperature of that heating element is maintained,

the heat warning symbols positioned so that an observer approaching a heating element of the stove when said heating element is dangerously hot can readily see and understand the heat warning symbol of that heating element.

26 The method of claim 25, wherein installing the one or more organic light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol positioned so that an observer approaching a heating element can see the symbol involves installing the one or more organic light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol positioned so that an observer approaching a heating element of the stove from any direction when said heating element is dangerously hot can readily see and understand the heat warning symbol of that heating element.

27. The method of claim 25, wherein installing the one or more organic light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol involves installing the one or more organic light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol that includes the letters "HOT" as a portion of the symbol

28. The method of claim 25, wherein installing the one or more organic light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol involves installing the one or more organic light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol that comprises an arrangement of LED's that forms a perimeter around the heating element.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein installing the one or more organic light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol involves installing the one or more organic light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol that comprises an arrangement of LED's that forms a perimeter around the heating element and the perimeter is interrupted by the letters "HOT".

30. The method of claim 25, wherein installing the one or more organic light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol includes installing the one or more organic light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol that includes an arrangement of LED's that partially encircles the heating element and that is positioned between the heating element and an observer approaching the heating element

31. The method of claim 30, wherein installing the one or more organic light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol includes installing the one or more organic light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol that includes an arrangement of LED's that partially encircles the heating element and that is positioned between the heating element and an observer approaching the heating element and wherein the symbol includes the letters "HOT"

32. The method of claim 25, wherein the method also includes installing a switch for turning on or off the ability of the one or more organic light emitting diodes to receive electric power from the source of electric power.

33. The method of claim 25, wherein the method also includes the step of installing an indicator device that notifies the user whether the one or more organic light emitting diodes no longer functions to illuminate and remain illuminated as long as the specified surface temperature of that heating element is maintained.

34. The method of claim 25, wherein installing a controller involves installing a controller that can control a degree of brightness of the one or more organic light emitting diodes based on a setting set by a user.

35. The method of claim 25, wherein installing a controller involves installing a controller that can control a sound producing component that produces a sound alarm whenever the one or more organic light emitting diodes is turned on.

36. The method of claim 25, wherein the one or more organic light emitting diodes can alternate in illumination to create a blinking effect that heightens the warning power of the heat warning symbol.

37. A method of warning individuals that a surface of a stove containing two or more heating elements may be hot, the stove having a source of electric power, comprising:

(a) installing a controller on a top surface of the stove,

(b) installing, for each heating element on the surface, a heat sensor beneath the surface and adjacent the heating element for ascertaining and communicating the temperature of the heating element to the controller,

(c) installing, for each heating element on the surface, one or more organic light emitting diodes adjacent the heating element, the one or more organic light emitting diodes in electric communication with the source of electric power so that the one or more organic light emitting diodes can be illuminated and configured to represent a predetermined heat warning symbol, said

symbol alone communicating that the surface is dangerously hot, the symbol readily visible only when illuminated to an observer who can also readily see the surface,

the controller capable of receiving temperature information from the heat sensors and controlling the one or more light emitting diodes so that whenever a specified surface temperature of an area surrounding a particular heating element is reached, the symbol is illuminated and remains illuminated as long as the specified surface temperature of that heating element is maintained,

the heat warning symbols positioned so that an observer approaching a heating element of the stove when said heating element is dangerously hot can readily see and understand the heat warning symbol of that heating element.

38 The method of claim 37, wherein installing the one or more organic light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol positioned so that an observer approaching a heating element can see the symbol involves installing the one or more organic light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol positioned so that an observer approaching a heating element of the stove from any direction when said heating element is dangerously hot can readily see and understand the heat warning symbol of that heating element.

39. The method of claim 37, wherein installing the one or more organic light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol involves installing the one or more organic light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol that includes the letters "HOT" as a portion of the symbol

40. The method of claim 37, wherein installing the one or more organic light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol involves installing the one or more organic light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol that comprises an arrangement of LED's that forms a perimeter around the heating element.

41. The method of claim 40, wherein installing the one or more organic light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol involves installing the one or more organic light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol that comprises an arrangement of LED's that forms a perimeter around the heating element and the perimeter is interrupted by the letters "HOT".

42. The method of claim 37, wherein installing the one or more organic light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol includes installing the one or more organic light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol that includes an arrangement of LED's that partially encircles the heating element and that is positioned between the heating element and an observer approaching the heating element

43. The method of claim 42, wherein installing the one or more organic light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol includes installing the one or more organic light emitting diodes configured to represent a heat warning symbol that includes an arrangement of LED's that partially encircles the heating element and that is positioned between the heating element and an observer approaching the heating element and wherein the symbol includes the

letters "HOT"

44. The method of claim 37, wherein the method also includes installing a switch for turning on or off the ability of the one or more organic light emitting diodes to receive electric power from the source of electric power.

45. The method of claim 37, wherein the method also includes the step of installing an indicator device that notifies the user whether the one or more organic light emitting diodes no longer functions to illuminate and remain illuminated as long as the specified surface temperature of that heating element is maintained.

46. The method of claim 37, wherein installing a controller involves installing a controller that can control a degree of brightness of the one or more organic light emitting diodes based on a setting set by a user.

47. The method of claim 37, wherein installing a controller involves installing a controller that can control a sound producing component that produces a sound alarm whenever the one or more organic light emitting diodes is turned on.

48. The method of claim 37, wherein the one or more organic light emitting diodes can alternate in illumination to create a blinking effect that heightens the warning power of the heat warning symbol.